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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00752 181837Z
ACTION STR-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 /114 W
----------046324 181915Z /53
P 181825Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4894
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMTN USEEC

STR FOR ACTION

STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, EEC
SUBJECT: U.S./EC DISCUSSION ON CUSTOMS VALUATION

1. SUMMARY: EC AND U.S. MET TO DISCUSS CUSTOMS VALUATION WORK PLAN FOR COMING MONTHS. BOTH DELS WERE POSITIVE ABOUT PROSPECTS IN THIS AREA AND AGREED THAT ACTIVE NEGOTIATING PHASE SHOULD BE KICKED OFF WITH A CUSTOMS MATTERS SUB-GROUP MEETING IN EARLY FEBRUARY. DRAFTING OF CODE SHOULD BEGIN ON US/EC BASIS, WITH EXPANSION OF PARTICIPATION AS PROGRESS IS MADE. END SUMMARY.

2. EC DEL (CHUMAS) WAS VISITING GENEVA TO SOLICIT REACTIONS FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS ON NEXT STAGES OF WORK IN CUSTOMS VALUATION. U.S. DEL (NEWKIRK) AND EC DEL AGREED
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00752 181837Z

THAT ACTIVE VALUATION NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN WITH A FORMAL SUBGROUP MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 8-10. SUBGROUP MEETING ITSELF WOULD BE PRO FORMA, BUT WOULD ALLOW OTHER DELEGATIONS TO OFFER COMMENTS ON THE EC DRAFT. THE EC ALSO HOPES THAT EC DOCUMENT WOULD ACQUIRE SOME MORE LEGITIMACY AS A NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

3. BOTH DELS AGREED THAT WEEK OF SUBGROUP MEETING WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TIME TO HOLD INITIAL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF EC DRAFT. (U.S. DEL NOTED THAT WE HAD PROMISED TO HAVE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS FIRST WITH CANADIAN DEL AND TO TAKE GOC COMMENTS INTO ACCOUNT. CANADIANS HAVE SUGGESTED SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY, IN GENEVA, FOR THIS MEETING. DETAILS FOLLOW SEPTEL). THE AIM OF THE US/EC BILATERAL WOULD BE TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF DIFFERENCE IN EC DRAFT, AND TO INSERT U.S. POSITIONS IN BRACKETED LANGUAGE. FOLLOWING INITIAL BILATERALS, WE WOULD MOVE TO A PLURILATERAL GROUP COMPOSED OF THOSE COUNTRIES MOST INTERESTED IN VALUATION NEGOTIATIONS. THE PLURILATERAL GROUP, BASED ON PRELIMINARY US/EC THOUGHTS, WOULD EVENTUALLY PRESENT TO THE GATT SECRETARIAT A NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT TO REPLACE THE EC DRAFT.

4. MTN DEL BELIEVES THE ABOVE SCENARIO WILL GIVE VALUATION NEGOTIATIONS STRONG FOUNDATION FOR RAPID ADVANCEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, MTN DEL RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESENCE OF CUSTOMS EXPERTS WEEK OF SUBGROUP MEETING TO HOLD TECHNICAL LEVEL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH CANADIANS AND EC. IN SUCH MEETINGS, MTN DEL ENVISAGES DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF EC DRAFT WITH INITIAL INTRODUCTION OF CONCEPTS NEEDED TO MAKE DRAFT ACCEPTABLE TO U.S.

5. DRAFTED BY SHELLEY. MCDONALD
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780151/aaaabqrx.tel
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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20 Mar 2014
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